

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

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TAGS: PINT PINS GJ

SUBJ: GRENADA NATIONAL PARTY SEEKS "UNDERSTANDING" WITH RADICAL
NEW JEWEL MOVEMENT

REFS: A) BTN A-131 (NOV 19, 1974) NOTAL

B) BTN A-26 (MAR 20, 1975) NOTAL

SUMMARY: AT A RECENT PUBLIC RALLY, THE GRENADA NATIONAL PARTY
CALLED UPON THE RADICAL NEW JEWEL MOVEMENT TO JOIN WITH IT IN
FORMING A UNITED FRONT OF ALL POLITICAL GROUPS OPPOSING THE
RULING GRENADA UNITED LABOUR PARTY GOVERNMENT OF PRIME MINISTER
ERIC M. GAIRY. HOWEVER, AS A PREREQUISITE TO REACHING AN
"UNDERSTANDING" ON A UNITED FRONT, THE GNP DEMANDED THAT THE
NJM RENOUNCE ITS PLANS TO NATIONALIZE BANKS UPON GAINING
POLITICAL POWER IN GRENADA. THIS WEEK, THE NJM SAID AN
"ACCOMMODATION" WITH THE GNP ON THIS BASIS IS NOT POSSIBLE.
END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS REPORTS, ON APRIL 6, THE MODERATELY
CONSERVATIVE GRENADA NATIONAL PARTY HELD A POLITICAL RALLY AT-
TENDED BY APPROXIMATELY 200 PERSONS AT THE SEAMOON RACE COURSE
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NEAR GRENVILLE, GRENADA'S SECOND CITY. AT THIS RALLY, THE GNP

ANNOUNCED IT HAD REACHED AN "ACCOMMODATION" WITH THE UNITED PEOPLES' PARTY AND DISCLOSED IT WAS SEEKING AN "UNDERSTANDING" WITH THE RADICAL NEW JEWEL MOVEMENT. HOWEVER, AS A PRE-CONDITION, THE GNP WANTED THE NJM "TO RENOUNCE ITS STATED POLICY TO NATIONALIZE THE BANKS AND TO ESTABLISH PEOPLES' ASSEMBLIES (SIC), IF IT COMES TO POWER." THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION PARTY, WITH ONE MEMBER EACH IN BOTH THE GRENADA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE, THE GNP PRESUMABLY INTENDED BOTH "THE ACCOMMODATION AND THE UNDERSTANDING" TO TAKE THE FORM OF AN OPPOSITION "UNITED FRONT" TO UNSEAT THE GOVERNMENT OF PRIME MINISTER ERIC M. GAIRY IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION, PRESUMABLY TO BE HELD IN FEB 1977.

2. GNP SPEAKERS AT THE RALLY WERE HERBERT BLAIZE AND ERIC PIERRE. BLAIZE IS BOTH POLITICAL LEADER OF THE GNP AND OPPOSITION LEADER IN THE HOUSE. PIERRE IS THE GNP'S SOLE SENATOR AND GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE POWERFUL GRENADA SEAMEN AND WATERFRONT WORKERS UNION. THEY WERE JOINED ON THE SPEAKERS'S PLATFORM BY THE UPP'S REPRESENTATIVE, WINSTON WHYTE, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE RULING GRENADA UNITED LABOUR PARTY, WHO SERVED AS A MINISTER IN THE GAIRY GOVERNMENT. THE GNP SPEAKERS CALLED UPON THE GAIRY GOVERNMENT "TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DUFFUS REPORT IN THEIR ENTIRETY AND WITHOUT RESERVATIONS." (DETAILED AIRGRAM ON THE DUFFUS COMMISSION REPORT AND GOG'S ACTION IN RESPONSE TO IT FOLLOWS SOONEST.) THEY ALSO SAID THAT THE UN'S ATTENTION SHOULD BE CALLED "TO INFRINGEMENTS OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS (SEE REF (B) ELECTORAL IRCULARITIES BY THE GOG." BLAIZE AND PIERRE ADDED THAT THE UN'S HELP SHOULD BE SOUGHT "TO HELP IN RECTIFYING THESE ILLS." BLAIZE ALSO PROMISED TO ASK FOR A VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE IN THE GAIRY GOVERNMENT. (THE RESULT OF SUCH A VOTE IS OBVIOUS SINCE THE RULING GULP HAS A 14 TO 1 VOTE MAJORITY IN THE HOUSE.)

3. EARLY THIS WEEK, THE NJM RESPONDED TO THE GNP'S CALL FOR AN ACCOMMODATION BY SAYING IT WAS UNABLE TO WRK OUT ANY "ACCOMMODATION" WITH THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION AS A PARTY. CLAIMING THAT NJM STOOD "FOR UNITY OF THE PEOPLE," THE NJM ADDED THAT IT WOULD WORK WITH ANY OTHER "SERIOUS ORGANIZATION" THAT MEET CERTAIN BASIC REQUIREMENTS SUCH AS "A COMMON IDENTIFICATION OF PROBLEMS FACING US (GRENADIANS)" AND AT THE VERY LEAST "OUR VIEWS OF THE SOLUTIONS OF THESE PROBLEMS MUST BROADLY COINCIDE." VIEWING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AS "COMICAL" THE GNP'S CALL FOR PUBLIC RENUNCIATION OF ITS PLAN TO NATIONLIZE GRENADA'S FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS UPON ACHIEVING POWER, THE NJM CRITICIZED AS "REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MOST BACKWARD, COLONIAL, REACTIONARY AND OPPRESSIVE THINKING POSSIBLE" THE GNP'S APPEAL TO IT TO CREATE A "GOOD IMAGE" TO ATTRACT FOREIGN INVESTMENT.

COMMENT: 4. SINCE GNP CHAIRMAN BLAIZE RECOVERED FROM AN

ILLNESS WHICH HAD IMMOBILIZED HIM AND SINCE HE APPOINTED
PIERRE AS OPPOSITION GNP SENATOR, THE MORIBUND GNP HAS TAKEN
ON NEW LIFE. HOWEVER, IT IS CLEARLY NO MATCH FOR THE RULING
GULP IN EITHER ACTUAL STRENGTH OR POPULAR APPEAL. THE ACCOMMODATION
BETWEEN THE GNP AND UPP IS A DEVELOPMENT WITH LITTLE PRACTICAL
SIGNIFICANCE, SINCE THE LATTER PARTY HAS NEVER ENJOYED MUCH
"GRASSROOTS" SUPPORT. ONLY IF THE GNP AND NJM COULD BURY THEIR
DIFFERENCES WOULD THERE BE A REAL POSSIBILITY OF THE OPPOSITION
COMING TO POWER, BUT, GIVEN THE NJM'S INSISTENCE THAT THE GNP
ACQUIESCE NOT ONLY TO THE NJM'S LEADERSHIP BUT ALSO TO ITS
IDEOLOGY, AN ACCOMMODATION BETWEEN THESE TWO PARTIES SEEMS MOST
UNLIKELY. END COMMENT.
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